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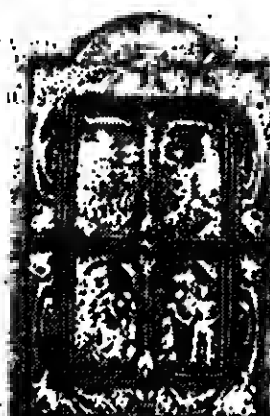
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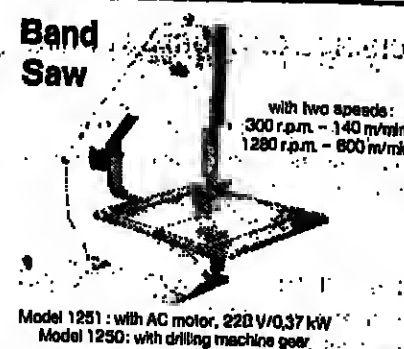


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The German Tribune

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ASEAN five look towards EEC

SONNTAGS
BLATT

When Chinese vice-premier Teng Hsiao-Ping visited Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur, he took off his shoes like any practising Muslim before going into the modern state mosque — even though as a Communist Party official he is an atheist missionary.

The Chinese leader was visiting the grave of former Malaysian Prime Minister Abdul Razak, and he impressed the Malaysians with his respect for their country's history and religion.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan van Dong had put tactical considerations even further ahead of principles in an earlier visit. He laid a wreath at the Malaysian national monument and posed for an unusual photograph: with head bowed the communist from Hanoi stood in front of a gigantic realistic sculpture commemorating Malaysia's military victory over communist guerrillas.

These ideological concessions by communist leaders on their visits to South East Asia are based on sober political calculations. Both statesmen want to become political and economic partners of the community of South East Asian countries.

In this they are not only competing against each other, but also against other powerful competitors. Only a short while before these visits Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Fylyubin visited South East Asia and performed his Cossack dance wherever he went.

He assured his hosts that the Soviet Union had always admired ASEAN as a community which guaranteed peace, freedom and neutrality in the area. In fact, not long before this Moscow had denounced ASEAN as a military alliance supported by the American secret service.

ASEAN, the community consisting of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines, is being courted from many sides at the moment. The suitors pushing their way into the region are trying to outbid each in promises.

But the bride is coy. The partner she really wants is not too eager, indeed expects to be courted himself. This is why the ASEAN countries are sending five delegates to Brussels on November 20. The five Foreign Ministers of the South East Asian states want to talk to the nine Common Market Foreign Ministers about the possibility of closer cooperation between the two communities.

Since the end of the war in Indo-China, the Asian heads of government have been seeking a new partner in a changed world. Their former partner, the USA, has already given a demonstration of what help they can expect. Yet none of the ASEAN countries want to move

to the other side — into the socialist camp.

The most obvious and nearest partner would be Japan, but there are still strong resentments in ASEAN countries towards the former occupation forces.

And that leaves Europe. Here the ASEAN countries believe they have found what they are looking for: technical know-how, industries eager to invest, trade partners and political allies in negotiations on world economic questions such as GATT or UNCTAD.

The EEC has yet another point in its favour. The nine European members are not a monolithic block wanting to impose their ideology on the Asians.

The ASEAN countries made advances in Brussels some years ago. For the past three years a group of high-ranking officials from both communities have been meeting regularly to discuss trade, industry, development aid and agricultural cooperation.

Up to now it has not got beyond the discussion stage. The EEC countries have been too preoccupied with their own problems to develop foreign policy perspectives.

The Federal Republic of Germany did not succeed until this year in widening the horizons of the Eurocrats. Minister of Foreign Affairs Genscher, now head of the EEC Council, proposed a meeting between EEC and ASEAN Foreign Ministers, and to prove how serious they were, the Germans sent two politicians to Asia.

Minister of Economic Affairs Lambsdorff visited Singapore and Indonesia and Chancellor Schmidt stopped over there on his way back from his trip to Japan. The most important subject discussed on both visits was better access for ASEAN countries to the EEC.

Bonn's efforts in this direction are not merely philanthropical. Industry on the Rhine and the Ruhr badly needs raw materials from South East Asia. The five ASEAN countries supply over 80 per cent of world natural rubber and palm oil requirements; 72 per cent of the world's tin, over half of the spices and coconut products, plus oil and fire wood. Apart from this, the ASEAN countries are reliable investment and trade partners. Unlike many other developing countries, they have had stable governments.

Verena Stern

(Deutscher Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 19 November 1978)

ENVIRONMENT

Halogland compost makes

Kuwait lupins bloom

CINEMA

Watching the bad dreams

Inside Fassbinder

MEDICINE

Prostate cancer No. 3 killer

— and still an unknown

The German Tribune: Political Affairs

Reviews included with this issue.



Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and four ASEAN Foreign Ministers in relaxed mood at a reception during the Asian politicians' visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. They are (from left): Carlos Romulo of the Philippines, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen of Malaysia, Upadit Pacheryangkun of Thailand, and Sinnathamby Rajaratnam of Singapore.

(Photo: dpa)

Genscher calls for closer Asian ties

Städtische Zeitung

The Federal Republic of Germany wants to intensify its relations with the five members of ASEAN, the South East Asian community of states, its Foreign Ministers have been told by Bonn Foreign Minister Genscher.

In separate talks with the Foreign Minister of Malaysia, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, and of the Philippines, Carlos Romulo, Herr Genscher described ASEAN as a "political and economic stabilising factor." The positive development in the attitudes of a number of other states underlined the increasing importance of ASEAN.

Herr Genscher also had talks with the Foreign Minister of Singapore, Sinnathamby Rajaratnam, and the Thai Foreign Minister, Upadit Pacheryangkun. All five guests from South East Asia were officially received by President Walter Scheel.

The Ministers, with their Indonesian colleague, Mochar Kusumaatmadja, who is arriving later, will take part in the first meeting between EEC and ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Brussels.

The Philippine Foreign Minister made special mention of the role Herr Genscher had played in bringing about these talks.

According to a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, Mr. Romulo said the initiative was an important step towards more intensive discussions between the two regional communities. It was a good omen that the talks were taking place

on 26 November 1978.

■ DATA STORAGE

Hans Peter Bull, the man who questions the right to know

Hans Peter Bull, the Federal Republic of Germany's Data Protection Commissioner, is a man with very definite ideas on who should have access to what information.

In an interview recently he talked about the kinds of requests bodies made for data.

For example, the national insurance offices might want the registration office to tell them when someone had died, to avoid such blunders as the continued payment of a pension long after the pensioner's death. It is often very difficult to get this money back later.

Bull's initial response to a hypothetical request of this kind is to say: "They'll have to prove it's necessary first."

This restrictive attitude towards the use of computerised data by the authorities is what one would expect from one in his position. It also marks Bull's reaction to the draft registration bill proposed by former Minister of the Interior Werner Maihofer, which only a few months ago conjured up horrifying visions among the public of the total bureaucratic state.

In fact the draft bill contained few elements not already on the statute books for several years.

Bull's written comments on the draft show how useful it can be to apply the principles of data protection to legislation. His analysis shows that in some cases (which are far from exceptional) part of the information about people which the registration authorities have been gathering for some time is not used at all.

Bull made a telling point on an issue which raised a storm when the draft law was published (it has since been withdrawn). The list of just under 200 kinds of information which the registration authorities are allowed to store included whether or not a citizen had been committed by a judge to a psychiatric institution.

The reason given for storing such sensitive information was that one function of the registration authorities was to keep electoral lists, and they needed information on people denied the right to vote because they had been legally committed to a psychiatric institution.

The Data Protection Commissioner had an alternative suggestion. Bull worked on the assumption that all the registration authorities really needed to know was whether someone had the right to vote.

They did not need to know why anyone had lost his voting right. The principles of data protection required that when someone moved, the registration authorities in the new district should simply be informed of whether or not the person had the right to vote.

If the civil servant concerned wanted further details, he would have to ask for a special file, which he would only be allowed to see if he could prove that this was a legal duty. This proof would be difficult to provide.

The same method applies in other spheres. The registration authorities, for example, only need to know that someone's passport has been confiscated, that

an application for confiscation has been made, or that the passport's validity has been restricted. But they do not need to know why.

The registration authorities need to know and to store the amount of an individual's tax-free income, but they do not need to know the specific family circumstances. According to Bull, the amount of data stored could be reduced considerably if this principle was applied.

Now that many people have realised to what extent electronic data processing can store details of their lives and circumstances, the issues of what information authorities gather and store and what they are allowed to pass on have become highly controversial.

Generally speaking, Herr Bull does not want to forbid the passing on of such information altogether. This would be impossible anyway, because, on the one hand, the authorities need the help of the registration offices in carrying out their legal duties and, on the other, a company has a legitimate right to find out the address of a customer who has moved to another area without paying his debts.

As long as it is only a question of name, title, address and date and place of birth, and as long as it is clearly laid down what details may be passed on and for what purposes, then this ought to be allowed if the public service is to benefit from the advantages of electronic storage.

Bull's basic view is that the citizen is

not served by being spared inconvenience at all costs, and that his functions to weigh the advantages of rationalisation against the dangers of a concentration of too many personal details in one place.

For example, Bull is far more restrictive than the now withdrawn registration bill about permission to pass on data to religious bodies.

In the draft law, the passing on of details about people to churches was allowed if they needed them for the fulfilment of their legitimate tasks, and sufficient data protection measures had been taken.

Bull argues that the phrase "fulfilment of legitimate tasks" is too vague and only basic facts about members of the church should be passed on.

Up to now the churches have been given details about other family members. Bull says: "They should ask their members for these details." Exceptions should only be made if the release of this information is in the public interest, for example when a religious body is building a kindergarten and children of other religions should also benefit.

The fact that the public want measures to prevent the abuse of computerised data has now been realised even by those to whom these regulations are a hindrance to business. The Association of Address Publishers in Oberursel now guarantees that people who have their names put on a special list will not be pestered by unwanted advertising material from firms belonging to the association. The association calls the service, appropriately, the Robinson List.

Suspicious citizens suspect that this is itself a cunning method. The aim: to find out the addresses of those to whom it would be worthwhile sending anti-advertising literature.

Winfried Ditzel

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 November 1978)

Cable TV: can it take up watching viewers?

The scene: a discussion with politicians on local problems. The Smith family is taking part — from its own living room by means of a television screen and a microphone.

The next day Mrs Smith transfers money from her bank account and finds out about cheap offers at local shops from the TV screen. Her daughter later tunes in to lesson five of a further education programme, and her son sends a letter via the screen.

Science fiction? The basis for a television system with such a wide range of uses has been created in West Germany by a decision by the Land Prime Ministers in May and pilot schemes are operating in four cities, including Berlin.

One of the most controversial areas of two-way cable television still has to be solved — data protection. Even the smallest possibility of gathering information about those taking part in two-way cable television gives considerable cause for concern, as a seminar for experts at the Berlin Institute for Research into the Future showed.

At the moment, it is only possible to find out how many people have watched a programme. In future, the headquarters of the two-way cable television system will know who has watched what.

It would be possible on the basis of this information to put together personality profiles showing that Mr X watches Panorama, rather than ZDF Magazine, prefers thrillers to programmes on science, and always switches off political programmes.

If we add to this Herr X's expressions of opinion, his participation in certain

courses, and the things he orders from local stores — all items of information stored — then we can say that almost the entire Mr X is stored in the computer.

It is easy to imagine that there would be many people interested in obtaining this information. Cable television, plus the abuse of electronic data is a combination which, according to Klaus Dettl of the Institute for Research into the Future, could lead to a total state such as that described in George Orwell's novel 1984.

The only way to prevent this, Jürgen Kanzow, ministerial director at the Ministry of Posts, told the institute, would be if cable television were run by the Bundespost.

The computers of banks, department stores and official bodies would be connected to central cable TV headquarters. The post office would not pass on the identity numbers of people using the cable services for finding out such generally available information as stock prices or details of special offers in shops.

Numbers would only be given over orders for goods or money transfers. "We believe that it would be possible to do this and still give data protection, because participants would know in every

case that they have to give their identity," says Kanzow.

Personal identification means every participant automatically gets a number from the central headquarters and a code-word known only to him, which he must quote. Only when he has been identified by these two will he be able to use the system. "This will ensure that the father does not read the mother's letters, and the son does not spend the money from his father's account."

And who is going to protect the cable TV viewer from the post office? Kanzow says: "If we assume in principle that the state is not interested in violating basic rights guaranteed by the constitution, then the principle of postal secrecy can certainly be accepted as adequate protection against data abuse."

The other experts could not go along with this. Professor Diedler, of the Society for Mathematics and Data Processing, said: "Cable TV would be ideally suited for control and research measures."

Researchers in the social sciences have already demanded that the laws on data protection should not be allowed to interfere with their work.

Professor Stämmüller, of Regensburg University Information Research Institute, said the system would have to be

"sealed off against the outside" — there would have to be a precise number of users and responsibilities should be clearly laid down.

If not, it would be in his opinion be unconstitutional. "If the number of users were not limited, you could not exclude the possibility of personality profiles being built up which could be so detailed that even the limits of paragraph one of the Basic Law ('The Protection of the Personality') would be overstepped."

Professor Steinmüller agreed with Bonn Commissioner for Data Protection Peter Bull and Dieter Baumeister of the Berlin Senate administration that there was a need for a data protection law especially for cable TV, as the present law did not provide adequate protection in this area.

Commissioner Bull warned against attempts to get around the data protection problem by getting participants to give their permission in advance.

"This method is now becoming a form of deception practised on a large scale."

He said the individual in a highly organised world had little chance of turning down conditions which he had to agree to if he wants certain services. Personality profiles or even partial information on people's political and social views were intolerable.

It would be very suspicious of data being stored and how it could be protected against it, getting into it.

Continued on page 5

■ RELIGION

Protestant synod sums up: time for illusions over



The Fifth Synod of the Protestant Church of Germany (EKD) in Bethel was a synod of discontent which used more than four tons of paper. The mood can be summed up as: the time of illusions is over.

The 120 delegates, representing about 27 million Protestants in West Germany, spent half their time in tough discussions and tedious deliberations before confirming that the EKD would remain part of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches. It would not, as passionately demanded by some critics, cancel its contribution to the WCC budget.

But it was said equally unequivocally that the EKD would see to it that the controversial special fund for the anti-racism programme was completely separated from the general WCC programme. The EKD still rejected racism, but it also rejected violence.

The special fund, financed solely from donations and used by the Geneva head office according to political criteria and without consultation with the member churches to selectively support a number of "liberation organisations," has caused dismay and confusion both among German Protestants but those in other countries.

If the synod had its way, the WCC would in future devote itself more to the tasks for which it was created: establishing ties between the world churches, promoting theological discussion and providing aid where needed (including combating racism) but without promoting violence.

In a nutshell, the WCC should revert to the original tasks in which it has proved its worth during its 30-year history, its function being as an instrument of the member churches rather than an independent organisation.

Jewish Institute aims to award doctorates

The Jewish Theological Institute to be opened in Heidelberg next year will be the first private institution of university status in West Germany. Baden-Württemberg Prime Minister Lothar Späth and Werner Nohmann, chairman of the Central Council of German Jewry, announced in Stuttgart.

There is no similar training institution in the German-speaking world. After its development phase, the institute is to accommodate 60 to 70 students who will later work as German-Jewish rabbis and teachers.

The institute will be authorised to award doctorates when it has demonstrated its standards.

The annual operating expenses of DM800,000 are to be paid in the ratio of 20 per cent by Bonn, 25 per cent by Baden-Württemberg and 45 per cent by the other Länder. The Central Council of German Jewry will finance the initial investment. (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 November 1978)

Two committees spent three years going into the topic of the synod, Living and Educating — To What End? coming up with dozens of statements and proposals.

For example: "Children and juveniles experience and suffer the controversies of social reality and of the educational institutions. Their value is on the one hand measured by the yardsticks of the employment system and its status and career exigencies, characterised by school marks."

"On the other hand, the young people's expectations and their attitudes are marked and influenced by criteria and guiding principles as well as by promises of freedom, giving rise to false hopes."

"Many find it hard to cope with such tension and are of necessity confronted with disappointment."

"It is thus understandable if minorities in their search for a way out blindly embrace religious, weltanschauung and political groups."

Another example: "Systems help us settle conflicts. They are justified in all instances where they lead to more love, freedom, justice, co-determination and happiness for all, and they gain authority in direct proportion to the extent to which they serve these goals."

"The synod of the Protestant Church in Germany asks whether the present situation in the child-rearing and education sectors provides opportunities to realise this educational tenet."

Although the formulation "crisis of the educational system" has been deleted, the synod left no doubt that it is exactly that.

We are about to become a church of rich taxpayers," says Nikolaus Becker, a clergyman of the Rhineland Protestant Church.

In Hanover, Rev. Wessel Nuyken of the Protestant Church of Germany, says: "In practical terms, we are increasingly departing from the principle that all members of the community should bear a share of the Church's burdens."

"The Catholic Church, too, is dismayed that fewer and fewer community members pay more and more church tax."

Two in three congregation members no longer pay any church tax at all. The tie-up between church, tax, and income tax is now boomeranging. Any tax reform raising the non-taxable part of the income or other deductible amounts automatically harms the financial position of the churches.

Since the introduction four years ago of a taxation system permitting child subsidies to be deducted from income tax and calculating the church tax by the income tax paid on that basis, church revenues have diminished drastically and many congregation members nothing to the church.

Speaking in Düsseldorf recently, Rev. Becker said: "Every increase of child subsidies is at the expense of the churches."

The forthcoming tax reform will again reduce the number of church tax payers. The churches are particularly concerned about this, as it is a policy to provide state revenues increasingly via turnover tax rather than income tax.

The EKD is aware of the fact that it is expected to speak clearly and without subterfuge. It is also aware that the changing values of the past few years have induced an ever-increasing number of people to forgo marriage and children.

Depicting the casualties, the synod called on the churches to give more people the courage to marry and have families. It demanded that Christian values be reintroduced in education and that the churches operate more schools, providing an alternative.

The main speaker, Tübingen theologian and educationalist Karl Ernst Nuyken, said education should not be equated with a right to a career as a value in its own right.

But how can this be explained to parents told for years that the welfare and future of their children lay in a secondary school and university education with the income and status that go with it?

The mixture of an aggressively competitive mentality and lethargy in overcrowded secondary schools and the universities governed by the numerous clauses and the resignation of university students without hope of a job speak for themselves.

Of course, the synod called for an up-valuation and further development of our present-day Cinderella handicrafts (training children through the ninth grade) and vocational schools.

The synod has thus most assuredly provided food for thought. But there was no clear statement that children must no longer be the guinea pigs of ideology.

gically motivated reformers, but must have a right to an education in keeping with their abilities and a future satisfactory in human and occupational terms.

The Church, Society and State committee tabled a motion reading: "The synod welcomes both the efforts on behalf of basic values and the fact that the Church has been able to contribute to the relevant debate."

"At the same time, the synod makes it clear that the Church is no supplier of basic values for political and social requirements of the day."

Though the Bible advocates that speech be unequivocal, the lukewarm and the clever of today abide by the principle: "Wasst du nicht wetten?"

Henk Othmer

(Die Welt, 13 November 1978)

Continued from page 4

authorised hands. There are so many weak spots."

This objection applied to both public and private cable stations.

Professor Kabel, of the International Institute of Media and Development in Berlin, pointed out another danger: the manipulation of cable TV users by interest groups. "The possibility of making special offers over the network to strictly defined groups of users is a violation of privacy and an affront to human dignity."

There had to be democratic control, even of the pilot scheme and it seemed doubtful whether this would be possible with the scheme envisaged by the Berlin Senate.

The seminar concluded that data protection was going to be a major issue in cable TV. Sociological research on cable TV, according to Rolf Kriebach of the Institute for Research into the Future, is unpopular in Bonn and Berlin. A decision of principle on its financing has not yet been taken.

Marion Kern

(Der Tagesspiegel, 14 November 1978)

Tax contributions drop alarms church leaders

This shift is of paramount importance to them because they only get a share of income tax.

"This development is having a considerable financial effect on the churches. The Protestant Land churches alone estimate that their 1979 revenues will fall by DM350 million as a result of the tax reform. The Catholics will suffer similar losses."

But most church authorities intend to use reserves to maintain their services. At present there is no intention to lay off employees. Economising will primarily centre on new construction, although Rev. Nuyken stresses that "everything will depend on how quickly the losses can be made good."

This obviously depends on economic growth and the growth of wages and salaries.

The condition of church finances obviously cannot leave the state indifferent. The churches have taken over many social functions which would otherwise devolve on the state.

But above all, the churches, with their 500,000 staff members, are Germany's largest employers; redundancies would obviously affect the labour market.

Some church authorities have already said that they do not plan to increase

the church tax rate, reduced only four years ago.

They have once before seen a wave of people renouncing church affiliation due to the tax burden.

There is a good reason for the regulation: that church tax can be cut if it amounts to more than four per cent of income.

There is some talk now of a "minimum church tax" — a procedure already practised by some Protestant churches in northern Germany. Those paying any income tax at all must pay at least DM7.20 to the church.

There is also some discussion on whether church tax should be related to income rather than income tax.

The churches are not only interested in the money because they view church tax as an expression of belonging to the congregation. They hold that the very fact that such tax is paid indicates the taxpayer's attitude towards his church.

Those who do not avoid church tax by renouncing their church affiliation have to all intents and purposes pay for the church. But as things stand, two of three congregation members no longer pay into church coffers.

Peter Rudolph

(Münchner Merkur, 7 November 1978)

■ BUSINESS

Clashing views on the corrugated economy

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The change in the structure and rhythm of West German economic growth is becoming increasingly obvious, causing some to call it a "corrugated iron economy" because the ups and downs of the typical sinus curve are becoming flatter all the time.

During the boom years of the 50s there were still annual growth rates of up to 13 per cent. And even in the 60s there were considerable growth periods of nine (1960) and eight per cent (1969).

But since the early 70s growth rates have fallen and have now settled around 3.5 per cent, already considered an upswing.

Chances that industrial output this year will rise by more than two per cent have improved lately: the first quarter saw a plus of 0.9 per cent over 1977, developing into stagnation at 0.1 per cent in the second quarter, with industrial output increasing by 3.8 per cent in the third quarter. Based on the latest data, it is likely that industrial output will show a 2.5 per cent increase this year.

For the first time in Germany, a post-war history growth impulses no longer come from foreign trade but from domestic demand, largely stimulated by government spending and credits.

Despite handicaps, business profits show improvements. But so far there is no evidence that the exceptionally strong impulses from government spending have triggered an upswing. If this were the case, growth should be able to rise on its own momentum.

Professor Claus Köhler of the Bundesbank considers a forecast to this effect for 1979 realistic, while Bundesbank President Emminger is somewhat more cautious.

Daimler-Benz Chairman Professor Zahn has again stressed that on upswing can only be achieved if changed fiscal policy allows private investments more profits.

Without tax relief for the manufacturing and investing industry there can be

no upswing that could ride on its own momentum.

The German Trade Union Confederation (DGB) believes the opposite: the right course is not tax relief for business but stepped up government spending with a direct effect on employment. As a result, increased government spending must be at the heart of budget considerations for next year.

The DGB considers Bonn idea that improved profits and above-average growth of private investments will produce sustained growth to be wrong.

It seems evident that the unions' power theory, used in collective bargaining from the very beginning, to economic policy as well.

This theory can be refuted by the basic and unquestionable axiom that growth without investment is a contradiction, because investment is tantamount to growth.

If economic policy uses the financing of consumption as a lever, profits, and hence the ability to invest can only increase via higher prices.

That this does not work today is clearly shown by the fact that industrial prices have not risen this year despite the continuing rise in per piece wage costs in the first half of this year.

The rapidly increasing import volume of finished products due to the massive devaluation of the Deutsche Mark (DM) 2.7 billion in the first half of this year, is taken as evidence that Germany's position as a site for labour-intensive industry has deteriorated considerably, wage costs being higher than in any other industrial country.

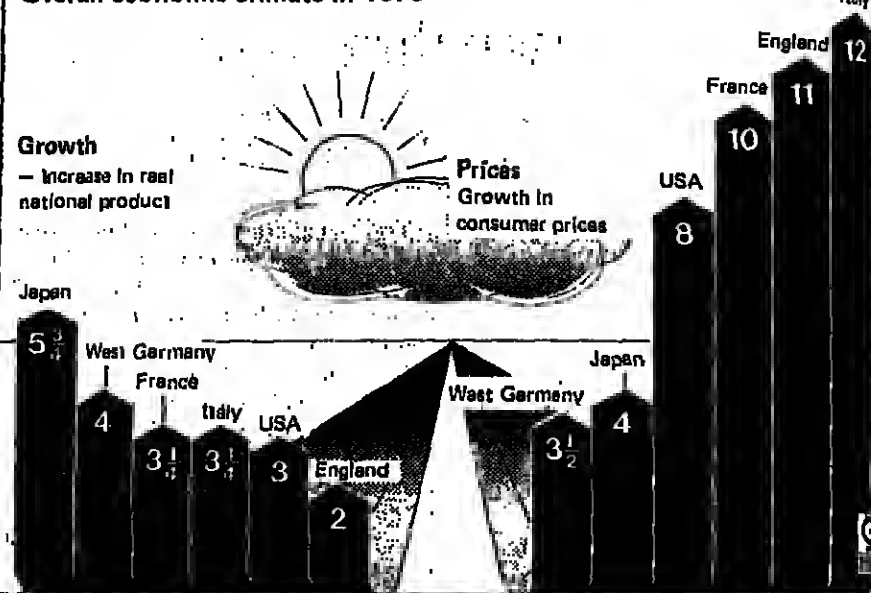
Even calculations by the DGB's Economic and Social Affairs Institute show that net wages and salaries have risen by 4.3 per cent (in real terms) over 1978. By the same token, the consumer price index was up only 2.1 per cent in October.

The inflation rate is even smaller for retail prices, which, projected for the whole year, amounted to less than one per cent in the third quarter.

Viewed in this light, this year's nominal wage increases were almost the same as the increase in buying power in real terms.

We have not had such a situation in a long time, showing, as Bundesbank President

Overall economic climate in 1979



sident Emminger recently said, how successful a policy of moderation in wage demands can be — for all concerned.

A slight acceleration of growth is expected for next year. The construction industry is expected to do brisk business. In fact, this industry has reached the limits of its capacity, both in labour and technical equipment.

There are also clear signs that investments are picking up, the impulses having initially come from the automobile boom, construction, and the backlog of modernisation requirements.

Some economists conclude from the increasing volume of construction orders, by the manufacturing industry that next year will also see some major investments for expansion.

The development of German investment, which reached a record of DM2.7 billion in the first half of this year, is taken as evidence that Germany's position as a site for labour-intensive industry has deteriorated considerably, wage costs being higher than in any other industrial country.

The demand for a gradual reduction of weekly working hours to 35 is part of the basis of the trade unions' wage policy, as borne out by bargaining in the iron and steel industry.

Heinz Oskar Vetter, as president of the European Trade Union Federation, recently urged the governments of the European Community to reduce working hours by 10 per cent within the next four years.

It was interesting, he said, to remember that since the 1880s weekly working hours for men in German industry had been continuously reduced by about 20 minutes a year.

Projecting this trend, he said, we

should have a 35-hour week by about 1984.

The present trade union demand for a reduction of working hours by four in the next four years would be triple the long-term trend.

Those who consider such a rapid reduction of working hours possible must, by the same token, not object to the introduction of modern technology and automation.

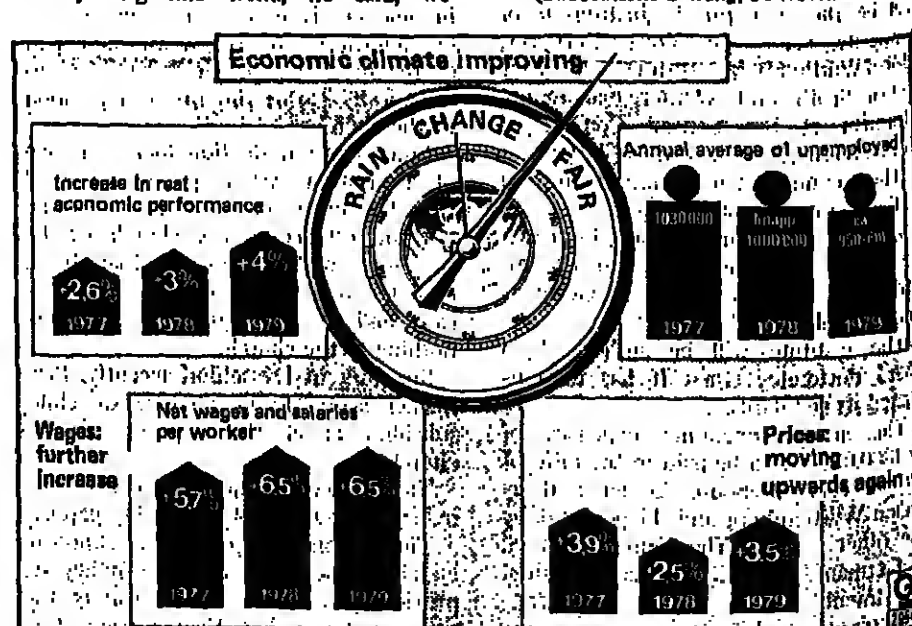
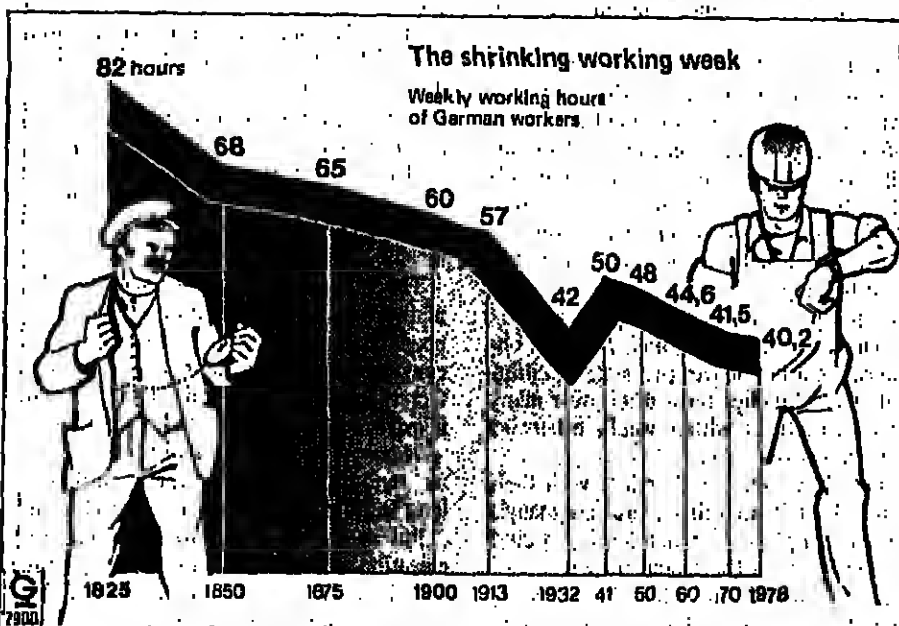
What will be the effect of the new monetary policy? The all-out move in support of the dollar can mobilise a maximum volume of 30 billion dollars in hard currencies. This corresponds exactly to the increased dollar circulation outside the United States in the next six months, fed by the American balance of payments deficit. As a result, many experts consider it possible that the dollar might have a new attack of the vapours as early as December.

There is yet another aspect: according to most US and other experts — not including the Washington administration and the Federal Reserve Bank — America is headed for a recession. This would be the end of the longest post-war boom period in the US.

Some monetary policymakers expect this to improve the international position of the dollar. But this is an unfounded hope since, experience is anything to go by, the acute danger of unemployment will quickly induce the administration to take its foot off the brakes.

And the anticipated oil price increase at the end of the year will not exactly improve America's balance of payments position.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 November 1978)



■ FUEL

Industry calm — but oil prices rising

The paralysis of Iran's oil output is no reason for concern, says the oil industry. But prices are going up and this is certainly something to worry consumers.

The price increases are not only attributable to the Rotterdam market, which is teeming with speculators. They are also going up in West Germany.

Refineries have been charging DM20 a ton more for light heating oil since the strike wave hit Iran's oil industry. And those wanting to buy petrol from German refineries will have to pay even more.

And it is not certain that a buyer willing to pay cash will be served at all. Says a Ruhr area dealer: "Unless you're a steady customer they won't let you have anything."

But even the greatest pessimists do not believe the oil flow from Iran will dry up completely and for a long period.

Even a week or so ago, when it was reported that Iran's entire oil export had broken down, the Iranians were still pumping between 700,000 and 1.1 million barrels a day into tankers.

Regardless of who is in power in Iran, no one can afford to stop the oil flow on which the country's export earnings depend.

The Shah's policy of using oil revenues to build up a modern industrial country is unlikely to be changed by his potential successors.

Only the period until it is clear who wields power in Iran is likely to be critical for the West German oil supply. But while Iran is mired by strikes the oil flow will be slower and the big customers anxious about their supply. This applies particularly to multinational British Petroleum, which buys 40 per cent of its global oil requirements from Iran.

German BP, which planned to use about five million tons of Iranian crude in 1978, has therefore been affected. Considering its total crude requirements for refineries of 13.2 million tons, Iranian oil amounts to about 38 per cent.

The whole thing was an error bound to be rectified soon. Independent filling stations not only have to pay considerably more for their fuel, they are also in danger of not being supplied at all.

In Rotterdam, where much of the fuel for the underwriters is produced, the international oil giants and their refineries guard their stocks to be able to supply their own filling stations should a shortage arise.

But there is no plausible reason for a shortage. Although Iran is one of the world's largest producers of crude oil (ranking after the Soviet Union, Saudi Arabia and the United States), its share in world output is less than ten per cent.

This would be a quantity impossible to compensate for if all oil-producing countries were working to capacity. But this is not the case, and any drying up of the Iranian oil can easily be offset by opening the tap wider in other oil fields.

In purely arithmetical terms, the Saudi Arabians alone are almost in a position to make up for Iranian oil. At present they produce seven million barrels a day, an annual output of 350 million tons. They are thus below the self-imposed limit of 8.5 million barrels a day and far below their output capacity, estimated at 11.8 million barrels by the trade magazine *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*.

This means Saudi Arabia alone could replace all but one million barrels of Iran's output.

The real question is whether the Saudis are prepared to make an all-out effort and how soon they can provide the additional oil.

Experts see no problem in making Saudi Arabian fields yield a daily 10 million barrels within a few weeks. To achieve a greater output would take longer.

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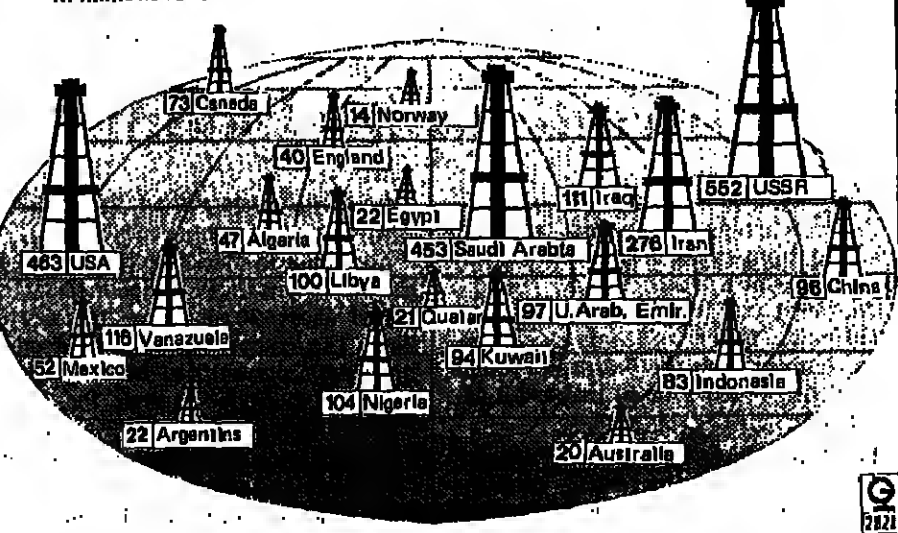
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Oil flow in 1977
In millions tons

German Shell, which depends for half of its supply on Iran, is even worse off. But the British-Dutch parent company, much less committed in Iran than BP, could easily resort to its worldwide supply sources and lend a hand.

German petrol and heating oil prices are, however, not only threatened by a drying up of Iranian supply and the temporary shortages. The petrol price on the Rotterdam market rose much earlier. In fact, its inexorable rise has more than made up for the dollar erosion.

If America's stabilisation experiment proves successful and the dollar continues to climb, Jimmy Carter's policy will have a worse effect on the pockets of German consumers than the trouble in the Persian Gulf.

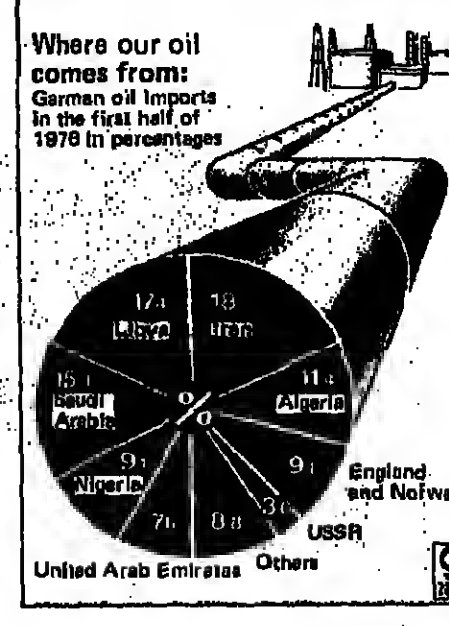
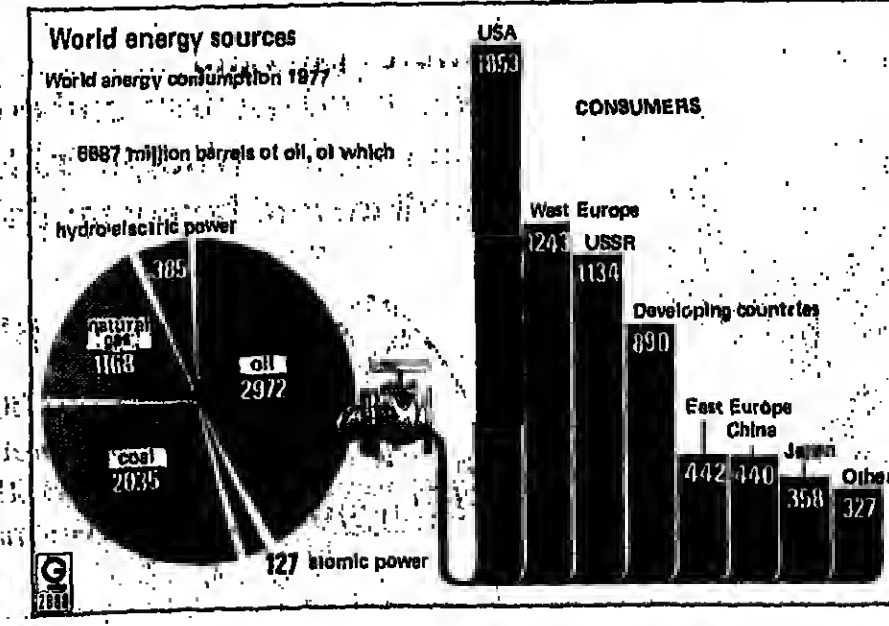
But by far the biggest danger to prices in Germany lies with the consumers themselves. Their loading oil tanks are only two-thirds full at present, and this is not normal for the time of the year. In the past, private reserves at the beginning of winter have always been higher.

If this trend to top up is aggravated by hoarding and if — as in the crisis winter of 1973-74 — consumers top up their tanks with even a couple of hundred litres to make sure they are full, it will be impossible to stop the price spiral.

Although the oil industry frankly admits that it would like to increase the price of light heating oil slightly, it stresses that it is not interested in a wave of speculation. But this can best be countered by a clear analysis of the situation, which the oil companies have shirked so far.

Instead, they pin their hopes on a swift normalisation of conditions in Iran. But the oil bosses cannot put their heads in the sand for much longer.

Heinz-Günter Kemmer
(Die Zeit, 10 November 1978)



■ ENVIRONMENT

Helgoland compost makes Kuwaiti lupins bloom

A 1,000 square meter carpet of moisture-retaining Helgoland compost obtained from garbage is to be used to grow lupins in Kuwait.

And next year it is intended to export 2,000 cubic meters of compressed garbage compost from the North Sea island to the Arab sheikhdom to make the desert fertile.

For Karl Meyer, 50, an entrepreneur from a small town near Stade, commissioned to relieve the vacation island of its garbage problem, the aim is not refuse removal but refuse recycling.

Helgoland has 2,500 permanent residents and receives 750,000 tourists a year. As a result, the island produces more garbage per head than Hamburg, Hanover or New York.

Muck Meyer, as he has been nicknamed, built a DM1.5 million plant where garbage is separated into glass, paper, cardboard and bulky items.

Paper is compressed and transported to Brunsbüttel on the mainland. Glass goes to a glassmill in Nienburg, where it is turned into new glass products, using 50 per cent old glass.

Almost half of Helgoland's garbage can be turned into compost. It is first chopped by machine, mixed and then compressed.

After two to three weeks of decomposition, the compressed garbage pro-

vides excellent compost and is profitable when exported to desert countries.

According to Muck Meyer's registered patent, 10 cm thick compost tiles are buried about 30 cm below the desert sand. The compressed garbage absorbs the water from artificial irrigation, providing a moisture reservoir for plant roots. Without the tiles, twelve times as much water would be needed, due to evaporation and seepage.

Herr Meyer lives with and from other people's garbage. His home and his service station are on top of a garbage

dump over which the grass has long grown.

A model of a Wischhafen holiday centre takes pride of place in his home. His ultimate aim is to convert the 62-acre garbage dump behind his home, once full, into a recreation area with hills, footpaths and ponds for the preservation of wildlife.

Another garbage dump in Hemmör, which has already been cultivated, is to provide a pasture for sheep.

Herr Meyer, who lectures on garbage at Bremerhaven University, has recently employed three newly-graduated engineers.

One of them, Renate Klöppenburg, is experimenting with plant life on the disused garbage dump in Hemmör using garbage compost.

Says Muck Meyer: "You cannot make progress in garbage recycling without experiments."

Martin Jank
(Die Welt, 8 November 1978)

Expert warns: 'We can't handle oil disaster'

The Federal Republic of Germany is neither organisationally, technically nor scientifically able to cope with major oil pollution of its shores, Professor Schastian Gerlach, head of the Oceanographic Institute, told politicians in charge of environmental protection in the four North German coastal states in Bremerhaven on 2 November.

Professor Gerlach said there was a lack of information on threatened regions and even methods for roughly assessing the toxic effects of oil on marine life were little known in West Germany.

There was above all a shortage of effective oil skimming devices for use in tidal waters.

He said that it was still undecided whether chemical substances used against oil slicks were not more dangerous than the oil.

Germany could be hit by an oil disaster at any time because supertankers used German ports constantly, Professor Gerlach said.

He called on politicians to promote the fight against oil pollution on an international scale and to make use of Ca-

Continued on page 9

Nile fish can save a city

The Nile pike, only 20 cm long, provides absolutely reliable information on the quality of drinking water.

The Egyptian tester emits electric pulses of 0.08 volts which are amplified by electronic devices and monitored. As long as the pike feels well in its pond, its pulse rate is between 400 and 800 electric impulses a minute. But as soon as the water is contaminated by poisonous substances, the pulse frequency drops to less than 200.

The electronic system monitoring the pike sounds an alarm and can turn off the entire water supply of a city.

Biological checks on drinking water have been in use by the waterworks of many major German cities for several years. The crawfish, trout, carp and goldfish used must be watched constantly and fed at least once a day.

But not so the Egyptian pike *Gambusia petersi*. All that is needed for monitoring it are two metal plates in the pond which register the electric impulses and conduct them to an amplifier.

This in turn conducts the information (even over long distances) to the waterworks centre. Moreover, the pike can manage without food for at least a week.

The remarkable properties of the Nile pike were discovered by a Franconian company, and the city of Göttingen is already using the fish to protect the public from contaminated drinking water.

Waterworks Director Wolfgang Berge praises the little fish for the minimal care it needs and says he has never known a better form of control.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 November 1978)

■ ENERGY

Leonberg shows alternatives to conventional heating



A savings bank has given the energy-saving business a shot in the arm by organising the Leonberg Energy Show, hoping to shake both business and the public out of their lethargy.

The sum of 4.35 billion deutsche marks will be available to grants or tax relief to home-owners introducing energy-saving measures under legislation passed this summer after a tough tug-of-war. The legislators dragged their feet to such an extent that applications for grants are only trickling in because the public does not fully trust the new measures.

Says savings bank director Helmut Nietzer: "We would like to stimulate proper use of energy and provide a review of the many possible sources."

But there is another motive behind the show: The savings bank would like to explore innovations in energy and find out which can be considered safe collateral for loans.

There can be no doubt about the usefulness of insulation. Heat obtained from oil, gas, coal or by electricity is wasted in the following ways: 37 per cent escapes through windows, 35 per cent through outer walls, 15 per cent through roofs, and 13 per cent through basements.

There can also be no question over the effectiveness of improvements in heating systems and remote heating. But things become somewhat more complicated where installations for the recycling of heat, solar energy plants and heat pump systems are concerned.

Though research is going full-out, tested equipment is already being mass produced, and the number of experimental and demonstration systems is rapidly increasing, mass application still lags.

Why do builders and home owners hesitate? Because installations based on solar energy alone, or operating only on heat obtained from household sewage, or only on heat taken from the environment heat pumps are still too costly to pay for themselves within a reasonable time.

A way out of the dilemma would be an optimal combination of all systems, taking the siting of the house into account and based primarily on improved heat storage techniques.

The more heat collected in the summer through solar collectors and heat pumps taking heat from ground, air and water, the longer it will be possible to use this heat in autumn and winter without resorting to conventional heating, which in our latitudes we shall never be able to do without entirely.

The Leonberg energy show also provided a small pilgrimage to research, institutes and demonstration plants for alternative energy production.

The "Junkers-Tri-Therm House" in Weimar, near Göttingen, operates on a combination of solar energy from roof collectors and a heat pump sucking up

air, withdrawing its heat and discharging cold air outside the house. A computer in the basement decides which heating system is most economical at a given moment.

On very cold and cloudy days (the combination of the two is rare) a conventional heating system is turned on.

The Junkers system also takes heat from drain water before using it to flush toilets, something which could become a general necessity once we face water shortages.

Heat pumps withdraw heat from air, soil, the water table and, in the case of a refrigerator foot: This is passed on at a higher temperature for heating. The pumps are operated by electric, gas or diesel engines and use only one-third of the energy required for conventional heating.

Burning oil or gas in an engine instead of in a heater provides three times as much heat — especially when the engine's waste heat is also used.

Particularly interesting are the combinations of systems. For instance, using a gas engine during the day and an electric motor running on cheap night electricity.

Simple arithmetic shows how many winters of heating at one-third of normal oil consumption are needed to pay for the installation.

Professor Rüdiger von Hammerstein of the Leonberg energy show that this system is most effective, though still considered unusual by most home owners. It is also rather expensive in relation to today's oil prices.

To save 50 per cent of the heating oil bill, a one-family home needs a solar collection area of between 20 and 40 sqm, and a water reservoir of three to five cubic meters.

According to Dr Joachim Gretz, in charge of the Euratom solar research programme since 1972, an installation would pay for itself in ten years.

But supporting installation of insulation, floor heating for low temperature operation and a heat pump would shorten this period.

There can be no doubt of the economy of installing a three to six square meter solar collector for hot water in summer. Home owners could turn off their oil heating for several months.

There are ten gas-operated heat pumps for the heating of swimming pools, gymnasiums, schools and apartment houses in operation in West Germany.

Based on several years of experience, Wilfried Handrock, director of the Pöderborn public utilities department, says

Continued from page 8
naulion, British and American experience.

Stepped-up research was needed to clarify whether oil, seeped into tidal shores and for how long it remained toxic. At present scientists estimate it takes several decades.

Professor Gerlach also called on the Länder to establish an advisory centre to control, control operations in case of a

disaster and provide information on the latest methods.

New charts of German coastal areas with information on sensitive regions, currents, bird sanctuaries and oyster culture were also needed as was a special fund to provide immediate finance for research in case of an oil disaster.

Among the energy systems unlikely to be used by householders is an experimental pyrolysis installation providing heat from organic waste, demonstrated by Adolf W. Borst at a castle near Göttingen.

Herr Borst uses a substance obtained from horses' hearts for the manufacture of carbon filters to obtain gas for the operation of a slightly modified Otto motor.

Biogas obtained from the fermented stable manure of 160 cattle is used for cooking, heating and electricity generating by a monastery in Bavaria.

The engine's waste heat maintains the two fermentation towers at an optimal temperature of 35 to 40 deg.C.

In full operation the system generates 300 cubic meters of gas a day, equalling 2,000 kwh. This is the only one of a dozen installations which survived the head of cheap oil.

Incidentally, the waste from manure cattle farming in West Germany has become a major environmental problem.

The unconventional methods of obtaining energy of which there has been much talk are intended as an alternative to nuclear energy, in turn considered an alternative to oil since Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace programme of 1953.

Nuclear energy received massive promotion while the development of "soft" energy technology has stagnated. In view of the enormous increase of energy requirements it was considered that soft energy could not contribute much.

Munich physicist Professor Sizmann is, however, convinced that it is worthwhile to consider new ways of using solar energy because it can supply Germany is 80 times the amount of primary energy obtained from oil, coal and uranium in West Germany.

The improvement of alternative energy technology is now being promoted by a measuring programme used to compare 14 solar collectors now on the market. A physicist said it could be taken as a rule of thumb that if one form of energy captured one per cent of the energy market, it would go from success to success. But the "soft" sources of energy had not yet reached this point in Germany.

Christian Schütz

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 November 1978)

Cairo project uses sun to provide cold

West German scientists and engineers have developed a refrigeration plant in Cairo to prove that it is possible to provide cold storage for large quantities of food using solar energy.

Even conventional refrigeration methods frequently use heat to produce cold, as for instance with gas-operated refrigerators, absorption air conditioners or low temperature desiccation plants.

In cooling through solar energy the collector replaces the heating coil, or burner, collects sun-generated energy, transporting that heat through a pipe system and condensing it.

A mixture of ammonia and water is heated by the energy. The low boiling point ammonia, kept at a lower temperature by cooling water, is liquified and the ammonia is conveyed through a valve and system of coils into the refrigeration space, where it evaporates at low pressure. In doing so it withdraws heat from its environment, bringing this down to the required temperature.

The Cairo plant operating on this principle has been commissioned by the German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and is being built by Dornier and Linde.

The plant has a collection area of 30 sqm, on top of a cold storage room of about 10 cubic meters in which food is to be kept at between 0 and 3 deg.C. In addition to the stored food, some 300 kilos of food are to be brought down to refrigeration temperatures within 24 hours.

In tropical and subtropical areas it is possible to obtain up to 1 kwh of energy per day and square meter of solar collector area and convert it into cold.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 November 1978)

Giant windmill to power holiday resort

For the first time in West Germany a project, on the shores of Lake Spaden, near Bremerhaven, is to harness the wind for energy.

Bremerhaven, the Cuxhaven district and the municipality of Schiffdorf have formed a partnership to open up a lakeside recreation area and camping site for 500 near Bremerhaven fueled by an unconventional form of energy. A grant from the federal government is expected.

According to Professor Krishna Simhan, a Bremen University physicist and the head of the project, a wind energy converter with a 52 meter wingspan, rotor will supply a heat pump with electricity to harness the heat of the lake water.

Site experiments will first establish the supply of energy. The DM 2 million wind energy plant is to be working by 1980 and is expected to cut the electricity bill by DM 44,000 a year.

According to Bonn Research Minister Dr. Volker Hauff, it is expected that work on harnessing solar energy and operating solar generators will boost overall economic development.

Dr. Hauff was visiting an AEG-Telefunken plant in Wedel, near Hamburg, which works on the transformation of solar energy into electricity. The project is subsidised by the federal government.

(Lübeck Nachrichten, 29 October 1978)

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CINEMA

Watching the bad dreams inside Fassbinder

The most controversial contribution to the film Germany in Autumn was undoubtedly that of Rainer Werner Fassbinder, an act of self-exposure in every sense which many filmgoers found embarrassing and which some interpreted as an unusual and authentic document of an individual and political crisis.

In an age of half-hearted television realism which reduces diffuse, difficult to formulate emotions to one-dimensional problems, Fassbinder seems to rely increasingly on analysing the very private. After seeing his latest film, *In einem Jahr mit 13 Monds* (In a Year with 13 Moons), made in Frankfurt in July and August this year, we can assume that the sumptuous aestheticism of *Despair — Eine Reise ins Licht* was just an interlude and not typical of the direction in which Fassbinder is moving.

In a Year with 13 Moons takes up directly where Fassbinder's film in Germany in August left off. The title refers to an obscure astrological superstition according to which emotional people are particularly likely to be involved in personal disasters in years which have 13 new moons.

Whereas in *Deutschland im Herbst* Fassbinder only gave us a glimpse of one page in his private diary, here he presents us with a whole chapter, confronting us with the most intimate torments of the soul (certainly intensified by his friend's suicide in the spring) but also with the fruits of his recent reading (Schopenhauer's *The World as Will and Representation*) and cinema knowledge (quotations from Maurice Pialat's film *We Won't Grow Old Together*).

There is of course also his vision of the city of Frankfurt-am-Main which here, more even than in the play *The Rubbish, the Town and Death*, comes over as an unbearable urban hell.

The film tells the story of the last five days in the life of Elvira Weishaupt. It is a story which could only take place in Fassbinder's imaginary Frankfurt, a city peopled by the mad, the sick and the perverted.

Elvira used to be called Erwin and worked as a butcher, but her love for a certain Anton Saltz, now one of the most powerful men in the city, made her go to Casablanca to have a sex change.

Saltz no longer plays a part in Elvira's life at the beginning of the film, and her relationship with a stockbroker by the name of Hacker comes to an ugly end. While she whines about her yearning to be stroked and kissed, Hacker leaves what he calls the "fat, repulsive, superfluous piece of flesh." The plump, snivelling Volker Spengler who plays Elvira is draped in women's clothes and is indeed a grotesque rather than an erotically stimulating sight.

Fassbinder is not in the least interested here in the specific problems of people who have sex changes. Elvira Weishaupt only serves as an extreme example of the basic need which all his characters seem to have: the yearning to be loved and the willingness to risk everything for this.

This too is a story of passion, like that of Franz Biberkopf in *Faustrecht der Freiheit* (Fox). For five days and five nights Elvira, accompanied for some of

the way by Zora, a hooker, wanders through a jungle of fear, disgust of life and dumb sexual desire, meeting people who have already been destroyed by the city — the strange orphan Seelenfriede, who has spent eight years in a psychiatric institution and dreams of graveyards; a grey-haired black man, who quickly quotes a few lines of Schopenhauer before hanging himself in a deserted office corridor; an office worker with cancer who has spent 15 months staring in hatred at the high office building of his former boss, Anton Saltz, who sacked him as soon as he found out he was ill; and Anton Saltz himself, an infantile despot, who enacts scenes from old Jerry Lewis films with his cronies.

The scenes are as bizarre as the characters. The film begins in the early dawn light on the banks of the Main, where lonely figures walk around in black leather. Close-ups show nimble tongues licking white flesh. This gay beat is a place not of lust but of need.

There is a long sequence in a Frankfurt slaughterhouse, where Elvira screams the final monologue of Torquato Tasso as repulsive sights fill the screen. Fassbinder transforms a casino near the main railway station into a gambling hell, a place of extreme isolation bathed in red light. The same red appears in the scene with the death-sucking black man. Here the light which appears at regular intervals between the figures in an unusual horror landscape.

A Year with 13 Moons is indeed a horror film, but its fantastic visions of the end are not alleviated by any cultural consolations. There is more talk in it than in any other Fassbinder film, but the words have lost their meaning. Ver-



Mirror to violence: Volker Spengler as Erwin who becomes Elvira in *Casablanca* roughed up by Karl Seyd in a scene from Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *In a Year with 13 Moons*. (Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

bal communication has degenerated to a mere hysterical portland, an endless monologue to which no one is ever listening.

In the lost sequence in the film Elvira is already lying dead in her flat — the superimposed texts become incomprehensible. In another sequence, red Zora (played by Ingrid Caven) switches between three TV programmes, one a report on Pinochet's Chile, another a French film by Maurice Pialat, and the third an interview with Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

The filmgoer only understands parts of all this and Fassbinder does nothing to help with this. The confusion in his own head, the disordered juxtaposition of fear, rage and snivelling is transferred direct to the screen.

It is appropriate to this style of work that Fassbinder, for the first time, does the camerawork himself, no longer needing a mediator between his con-

sciousness and the material (though it is astonishing how little difference there is between his camera style and that of his regular cameraman, Michael Ballhaus, the same aesthetic meticulousness, the same clever perspectives and reflections, the same technical perfection with which Fassbinder seems to defend himself against a total breakdown.)

In a Year with 13 Moons is Fassbinder's most radical film, and many who see it will find it too strong, a piece of effrontery. Fassbinder lays the 'garish' taste on thick (someone masturbates to a Christmas carol, a Jewish prostitute uses the codeword *Bergen-Belsen*) but it seems less out of place than ever before.

The real shock effect of the film results from the brutal directness with which Fassbinder fires his phantasies and obsessions at the filmgoer — a bad dream from which we cannot quickly awake. Hans G. Blumenberg (Die Zeit, 10 November 1978)

No bouquets for Lübeck offerings

This year was the 20th anniversary of the Nordic film festival in Lübeck, the most relaxed and pleasant film festival in West Germany.

The programme this year was full: ten feature films, 14 short and documentary films, almost all German premieres of works from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Then there was a comprehensive retrospective on the early work of Ingmar Bergman, and a section on what is still known as the New German Film.

Much as one would like hand out bouquets, there was not much to rave about apart from the Bergman retrospective, well worth seeing. Most of the films were well-intentioned rather than well done. To judge by the films shown here, our Nordic neighbours are mainly concerned with analysing personal problems and environmental problems in documentaries and features.

There are pathetic complaints about God and the western world (in *Who Gives the Orders Around here* from Norway and *Charly* and *I from Denmark*). The world of women is shown in a gloomy and in no sense illuminating perspective (*The Revelation*, from Norway and *One and One*, Sweden).

The Scandinavian film also goes back to the simple 50s, when it attempts to describe the problems and needs of youth (*Macan* and *Bluff Stop*, from Sweden) or naively indulges in anarchic light-heartedness (*You are not alone*, from Denmark).

Even Tage Danielsson, the charming Swedish nonsense film director who had two of the biggest hits of previous festivals with his comedies *The Apple War* and *The Man Who Stopped Smoking*, was disappointing this year. His *Set the Prisoners Free*, *Spring Is Here* is a pleasant enough piece of nonsensical grotesque comedy for its first third, but Danielsson then seems to run out of steam, the gags wear thin and the filmgoer is left with the sorry sight of a balloon slumping to the ground after a bright and promising start.

The clinically constructed thriller *Män på tak* by Bergman's former opponent Bo Widerberg is an unqualified success. A dying policeman is brutally murdered in a hospital, and a detective tries to reconstruct the life of his unpopular colleague. Slowly a picture of a human emerges, a man whose everyday tricks and murderous actions were covered up by his uniform and the mindless solidarity of the police force. It is a superb and masterfully produced thriller, reminiscent of Melville's *Western* of the Night.

The shorts and documentary films, which seem to be going through crisis throughout the world, made no great impression of Lübeck. There is a good and long tradition among the environmentally conscious Scandinavians to people, animals and nature. But films of these subjects this year were not quite satisfactory.

The Finnish film *13 Days of Life* is a depressing account of the everyday life of unemployed Finnish youths, but the filmic techniques used are inappropriate. It is not enough to point the camera at the mostly taciturn youths and carry the film forward by asking leading questions.

You and Your Fur Coat, a Norwegian short film, was astonishingly naive. Scenes of almost unimaginable cruelty to animals on Norwegian milk farms are constantly interrupted by images of women in fur coats laughing inanely.

The commentary is of the sermonising kind, warning these women about their vanity and promising a decent world only when people learn to conquer such weaknesses.

Instead of attacking those responsible for this scandalous state of affairs, the film preaches in irritating style and absurd morality of asceticism.

To sum up this year's festival: 1978 was not a brilliant year. There was plenty of poor stuff, a lot of passable average work and the highpoints were provided by the works of old masters Bergman and Widerberg. (Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 November 1978)

CULTURE

London turns back the clock on Germany

Everyone seems to be fascinated by German culture these days. The Paris exhibition *Paris-Berlin 1900-1933* started it all.

Although the 20s in Berlin have long been familiar, if not a cliché, there was still much to be discovered. Thanks to this exhibition, French intellectuals have for the first time become aware of entire stylistic movements and the response has even had a political effect.

The image of the eternal German which the Paris exhibition attacked has changed to something more attractive, and even fraternal in spirit.

The Paris exhibition is probably with-

and add spice to the exhibitions. There was a fear that it might all be too much of a good thing. The Goethe Institute, the Hayward Gallery and the Whitechapel Galleries are not the only institutes putting on events dealing with the Twenties. Apart from its exhibition of Berlin art, the Institute of Contemporary Arts is holding a series of discussions of the intelligentsia and politics, proving how strongly what was originally intended as an information service has increased the London intellectual scene.

When the very impressive exhibition of Otto Dix drawings from World War One and the documents on the Chigliari film end, followed by an impressive documentation on the Weimar Republic, the entire early 20th century in Germany seems to be let loose. If we include the very fine caricature exhibition at the Fisher Fine Art Gallery on the work of Karl Arnold, too long in the shade of John Heartfield, or Mies van der Rohe and the Bauhaus in the Building Centre Trust, or Johannes Baader, George Grosz, Max Ernst, and Raoul Hausmann in the Anneli Juda Fine Art Gallery, and the exhibition on social housing in the Weimar Republic at the Architectural Association, then it can be said that London is now receiving the boldest coaching in German art and history that has ever taken place here.



Otto Dix's *Three Street Woman*, 1925, on show in London as part of the Goethe Institute's celebration of its 20th birthday. (Photos: Katalog)

out equal for intellectual planning and effect. But London does not intend to play second fiddle. Even the farthest suburban tube stations have the striking Goethe Institute poster: *London-Berlin - The Twenties Meet The Seventies*.

The title sounds rather like an imitation of the Paris success, but this is not the intention. The London perspectives on the Berlin of the 20s and of today have their own British angle.

The Goethe Institute, which is organising this intimidating autumn exhibition of German culture as part of its 20th birthday celebrations, has spread its impressive series of events throughout London.

The German embassy had the good idea of presenting the works of German artists living in London at its newly opened building, but the original intention to keep out large numbers of people for security reasons was criticised and the plan was dropped.

The art world in the more restricted sense will probably be most interested in three exhibitions being opened this week and next: *Nude Sachlichkeit* and German Realism of the Twenties at the Hayward Gallery; *Eleven Artists Working in Berlin at the Whitechapel Gallery*; and *Berlin a Critical View - Hasselbacher Realismus 1920 und 1970*. The last is officially supported by the Berlin Senate, whereas the private exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery is a compeller. Internal artistic feuds from Berlin are being fought out in London

Even ten years ago, this would have seemed too much. Even when the German Month was held four years ago, the whole thing was a German affair. Since then we have seen the breakthrough of the new German film, represented by directors such as Herzog, Fassbinder and Wenders.

The psychological and artistic consequences of their work abroad is still underestimated here. The themes of their films have so to speak intensified the German face of Europe.

Since then there has also been the major London exhibition on surrealism, as a result of which England realised how intellectually isolated it had been for so long and discussed this problem keenly.

In the weeks to come German professors will give talks at the Goethe Institute on German politics and literature in the twenties; at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, German emigrants and English left-wingers will talk about the relationship between political commitment and art and about anarchism in the Federal Republic of Germany; the London Film Institute will be showing German films of the 20s; and the Goethe Institute will be showing political influential films of the early thirties.

The *Times Literary Supplement* has not only drawn its readers' attention to the 'Caligarians' of events in the British capital, it even included in its last bulky special issue on German literature the first English translation of Kleist's famous essay on puppet theatre.

All this is only possible as a result of a basic change: cultural England is for the first time showing interest in European culture, of which the Germany of the 20s seems most representative.

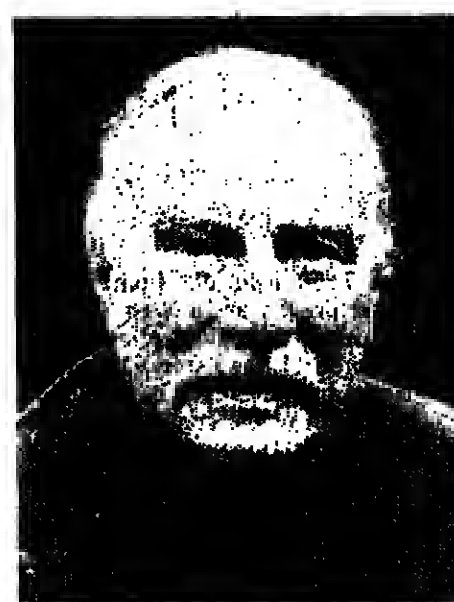
The amazing richness of literary and artistic production, and especially the political aggressiveness of German artists which has no parallel in England, is now revealed to the younger British generation. It is not presented as mere cultural history or even archaeology, but as of specific relevance to today: the political movement in England, which in certain moments is ahead of European history, is yet again brimming with possibilities.

The socialist model, which seems to have lost its impetus in many places, is still on the programme for the future here. This sense of political alternatives (and many English intellectuals' realisation of this) is probably the reason why the many examples of German avant garde work and the provocative questions they ask have found a public never before so receptive to these things. People are becoming more political. In England just at a time when Germany's intellectual left is becoming defeatist.

Karl Heinz Bohrer (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 November 1978)



Self-portrait by Max Beckmann, 1927, on show in London. (Photos: Katalog)



Martin Held: ravaala enough on stage (Photo: dpa)

Martin Held's genius still alive at 70

Martin Held who celebrated his 70th birthday recently, has never been a favourite of the gossip columnists: he avoids the limelight, dislikes questions about his private life and is rather shy.

Held lives quietly, avoiding publicity. In the evenings, when he acts and he acts every evening, he reveals enough figures, characters and views of life; otherwise he keeps himself to himself. Held has never been one to make statements about himself, and in this respect he is not modern, and this does him credit.

Held comes from Berlin, where he once worked as an apprentice at Siemens, in the evenings acting in amateur theatre groups. When he approached Leopold Jessner, director of the Republican State Theatre, the man immediately recognised his potential and talent and took him on as a pupil.

For a short time Held worked with Piscator before he was spotted in Frankfurt. The Boleslav Barlog took him on in Berlin without having seen him act.

Held was a failure in his debut at the Schiller theatre, and things only changed when he played Wehrhahn alongside Käthe Dorsch. This was when the critics and the Berlin theatre-going public first realised his talents. Since then he has been our best character actor; *The Times* has even described him as the greatest in Europe.

Held works at his parts like a builder. He is a truth fanatic, so totally involved in each part that one hardly recognises him at first sight. He gives his intuition full rein and the brilliance of his imagination comes into play.

No-one has played Sternheim as well. No-one has understood Anouilh's elegant frivolity and played it as well as Held. He was with good reason Körner's favourite actor, and is a born actor of Chekhov. He was unforgettable in Hasenclever's *Ein besserer Herr*. He can be irresistibly comic and at the same time bitterly satirical.

He has the clown in him. As a Shakespearean king he can rage tragically, and under Beckett's directorship he played Krapp in the Last Topo so convincingly that he had the audience at his feet in all European capitals. He puts such force into an interpretation, he is such a powerfully persuasive actor, that only a few can match him these days.

Friedrich Luft (Die Welt, 10 November 1978)

MEDICINE

Prostate cancer No. 3 killer — and still an unknown

Some 7,300 men die from prostate cancer every year in West Germany and the disease is in third place as a killer after bronchial and stomach cancer, a conference in Munich has been told.

The subject of the congress organised by the Munich Tumour Centre, was the diagnosis and treatment of prostate tumours, and the spirit of Julius Hackethal, West Germany's medical rebel, was present throughout. As Dr Egbert Schmiedt, director of the urological clinic in Grosshadern put it, the meeting aimed "to put certain things claimed by a certain gentleman into perspective."

About 15,000 prostate cancer cases, mostly in a late stage, are diagnosed every year. Prostate cancer shows no symptoms in the early stages.

The state of medical knowledge means treatment is restricted to palliative measures, including radiation and hormonal therapy with estrogen and, in most instances, the removal of testes tissue.

Herr Schmiedt stressed that there were many questions regarding the treatment of prostate cancer.

Urologist R. Nagel, of Berlin, said prostate cancer was "one of the most

Süddeutsche Zeitung

problematic urological tumours." All participants agreed that early diagnosis was of paramount importance.

Rectal palpation, the palpating of the prostate gland through the rectum, Herr Schmiedt said, made it possible to diagnose 90 per cent of prostate cancer cases.

Prostate tissue was removed by needle biopsy. With one of the two practised methods the physician obtains a piece of tissue and, with the other, a few individual cells to be examined for malignancy under a microscope.

According to P. Fuell, Memmingen, needle biopsy is rather complicated and the patient must be told of the possibility of complications, such as prostate inflammation or haemorrhaging.

Unlike West Germany, the Swedes, who developed the method, use only the fine needle biopsy system with which individual cells are removed for examination. This method, according to J. Zajicek of Stockholm, though complicated for the doctor is easier on the patient.

The controversy over the two types of biopsy demonstrated the problems facing medicine.

Following involved lectures on specialised examination techniques such as computer tomograms and "nuclear diagnosis," discussion revolved around things a layman would consider self-evident.

"We should be familiar with both biopsy methods," said Herr Schmiedt, "but there are many shortcomings in this field."

There were too few centres where doctors could learn the techniques and, in the case of fine needle biopsy, 40 per cent of the cells obtained were useless.

Dr Zajicek said he felt it was his shortcoming not to have demonstrated how to prepare the cells for microscopic examination.

It was only possible to distinguish between a good and a bad specimen through the microscope.

Participants denied that biopsy led to metastases. According to Dr Zajicek, both animal experiments and follow-up

checkups of 500 patients five years after a biopsy showed no metastases.

Dr Schmiedt said he knew of no case in medical literature where a biopsy had caused metastases.

Munich pathologist Max Eder said any kind of cancer spreads cells into the blood stream and leads to metastases even without manipulation.

A slow-growing "peaceful cancer" could not be turned into a fast-growing malignant tumour by manipulation. Dr Eder said there were two types of cancer: the fast-growing "aggressive" tumour, the cells of which had virtually no similarity with prostate tissue, and a slow-growing tumour almost identical with prostate tissue. Only biopsy could determine the type of tumour.

On diagnosing a localised slow-growing tumour, the therapy consists of waiting, said W. Mauermayer, Munich. The patient had to be fully informed and agree to this course of action.

Herr Mauermayer said surgery was the only curative method, used with men in generally good physical condition and below the age of 70. A precondition to surgical removal of the prostate gland was that the tumour was restricted to the gland and that no secondary tumours existed.

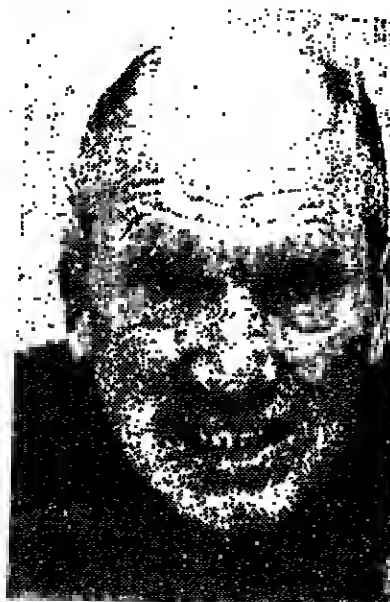
Following an operation most men become impotent, less than ten per cent also becoming incontinent. Over 60 per cent survived the operation for more than ten years. Herr Mauermayer said that radiation provided a possible alternative.

F. H. Schröder, Rotterdam, said there was no proof of any treatment prolonging the life of a prostate patient. Proof could only be provided through control groups.

But a study, showed that of 136 patients who underwent conservative treatment, one-third died of cancer. Of 310 patients treated with radiation, 20 per cent died of the disease. And of 121 patients who underwent surgery, five per cent died of cancer.

These figures, he said, refuted the argument that manipulation greatly increased the risk because fewer patients died following a combination of examinations and surgical removal of the prostate than following any other type of treatment.

Renate Jäckle
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 November 1978)



Dr Julius Hackethal: a thorn in the flesh which doctors need? (Photo: Sven Sjö)

Dr Hackethal doesn't raise all hackles

Not all doctors view Professor Julius Hackethal, the outspoken critic of the medical profession, as a disciple of the devil — not even all urologists.

According to Professor Wolfgang Mauermayer, head of a Munich urological clinic "no matter how one looks at it, he has set something in motion which can only be beneficial in the long run."

"The man is a thorn in the flesh which we doctors need. It would be too easy to brush him aside as a psychopath," he says.

Professor Mauermayer, a urologist of 30 years' standing who has done thousands of prostate operations, goes on: "Hackethal's attacks are exaggerated, but they have managed to shake many urologists out of their lethargy."

"There is no such thing as a harmless therapy or operation, and we at our clinic make a point of informing the patients accordingly." Impotence is almost inevitable.

Professor Mauermayer says Professor Hackethal's main function has been to make the public aware of prostate cancer, although he considers fear of diagnosis and checkups disastrous. "Those who know the frightful final stages, also know what it means to be faced with the fact that most of the 150 patients a year reach our hospital when they can no longer be treated, or when treatment is very difficult."

Professor Mauermayer sees the main problem in the correct early diagnosis. "Palpating with the finger is inadequate and there is no way of getting around a biopsy — a procedure, which has to be thoroughly learned."

Forty per cent of biopsy specimens presented by German urologists are useless because, as Professor Mauermayer puts it, "my colleagues don't know how to handle the needle."

Kassel radiologist Professor Bogdan Krokowski goes further than the Munich urologist. He opposes both biopsy methods used at present. "I have found that biopsies lead to metastases."

Professor Krokowski favours palpation only, which can be repeated after six months in case of a suspected tumour due to its very slow growth. He also favours ultrasonic examination.

Jan Schmitt
(Münchener Merkur, 7 November 1978)

TEACHING

An academic guide to the politics of sex education

DIE ZEIT

How much sex education should be taught remains a controversial subject among social scientists and educationists, teachers and parents.

The main reason why sex education is so hotly debated is that a determined minority of West German teachers decided to use it as the starting point for a campaign to change opinions on the family, marriage, and society itself. Doctors, teachers and parents began to organise resistance to these moves and sex education became a major area of conflict, the significance of which goes far beyond school and theory.

The Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe recently ruled that "individual sex education is in the first place the natural right of parents but the state has the right to teach sex education in the school." The court distinguished between two areas — on the one hand, "pure information about facts" and the "mere communication of knowledge." Here the Karlsruhe judges negate in principle "an influence on the basis of the rights of parents." On the other hand, they talk about "sex education proper," which "should make possible morally-based forms of behaviour in the area of sexuality." This is not in the court's view "dependent on the parents' consent."

The ruling meant a limitation of parental influence in the teaching of the biological facts of sex and in instruction

on the social obligations of sex. The Constitutional Court has struck a blow for liberal sex education without opening the doors for such extreme cases as that recorded in Commune II.

Hamburg teacher Karlheinz Lutzmann says progressive sex education has been "banished prematurely to the dark room of everyday school life." Lutzmann led the GEW (Education and Science Union) working group on sex education in Hamburg and is one of the contributors to a recent book on sex education (*Bilanz der Sexualpädagogik*, edited by Hans-Jochen Gamm and Friedrich Koch, published by Campus Verlag, Frankfurt.)

The 11 contributors, mainly teachers and academics, belong to the left wing of sex education, with Lutzmann as a moderate trade unionist on one side and Gamm from Darmstadt as a Marxist educationist on the other. There is no pluralism, as one might expect from a resume, no overview of controversial research results, not even an analysis of the immense amount of literature on the subject.

There is no doubt that this book is

scientifically one-sided. But the editors, Gamm and Friedrich Koch, a professor of education in Hamburg, also limit the subject matter in terms of content. Their resume contains neither an article on the legal position nor a statement on the various political positions. Instead, more than half of the nine essays concentrate on historical aspects and developmental tendencies. Only one specific analysis gives us any indication of the state of sex education in schools today.

The results of a poll in Hamburg in 1973 show that in the first year of primary school there is a "high deficit in sex education." Only 19 per cent of pupils had up to five hours of teaching a year. After this things get better and the trend continues into the secondary modern and technical schools. In the seventh to tenth classes of grammar schools the subject is "criminally ignored," says Karlheinz Lutzmann.

More than two-thirds of these pupils are not taught anything in school about the subject. On the basis of this empirical research he says that sex education in Hamburg has "now died a quiet death."

This is the basic tenor of the book — resignation. In his essay, by far the most important, Günter Amendt, executive member of the German Sex Research Institute, says: "The Restoration has set in even in the minutest ramifications of

scientific discussion." "The social isolation of a progressive sex education concept" characterised the situation, with "the scientific isolation of its advocates on the one hand and the systematic organisation of a reactionary concept of anti-enlightenment," on the other.

The authors express their disappointment partly in a vulgar terms which disqualify them as scientists (Amendt describes his opponents as "stinking bourgeois" and accuses them of producing pseudo-scientific hocus-poecus), and partly in an incomprehensible technical jargon which reveals them as sectarians: "The genital primacy became a partial instinct sui generis or was relativised to the mere sum of partial instincts."

Resignation, or Gamm's hopes for a millennial conflict-free society in which "living against one another ceases and the first signs of the life of the sexes without domination begin to emerge" do not help the 12 million pupils who need to be taught the facts of life now.

We do not need to go back very far to find the basis for a form of sex education appropriate to the child. It has existed for a decade.

In 1968 the Ministers of Education unanimously passed recommendations for sex education (printed in this book), reasonable, cautious and progressive ideas, valid for all Länder.

Even Gamm describes this development as a milestone because the recommendations give as educational goals biological facts and socio-ethical problems (prostitution, homosexuality, promiscuity) and define sex education as an inter-disciplinary problem in which German sociology and the arts have their parts to play.

Hajo Matthieson
(Die Zeit, 3 November 1978)

Cancer book adds fuel to dispute

In his latest book Don't be Afraid of Cancer, surgeon and orthopaedist Professor Julius Hackethal continues his dispute with the German Medical Association.

At a Hanover press conference on 2 November, Professor Hackethal called on the head of the German Cancer Fund, Dr Mildred Scheel, to resign.

He also accused Dr Scheel of representing the interests of the "violent disciples of traditional medicine" rather than those of people threatened by and suffering from cancer.

He said he would take legal action against Dr Scheel.

Professor Hackethal held that it was above all prophylactic checkups for prostate cancer which turned the "domestic animal cancer" into a dangerous predator.

He announced that he would form an organisation as a counter to the Cancer Fund called "Action Pro Patient," and that he intends to fight cancer with his "Eubios strategy," the aim being to engage in cancer prevention by sensible living.

A further aim was to reform the German health system in a way that would instil patients with confidence in their doctors and stop the doctor from being after the patient's money.

According to Professor Hackethal, German doctors earn an annual DM2 billion by diagnosing cancer and another DM5 billion by cancer therapy without visible success.

Dr Mildred Scheel has not commented on Professor Hackethal's censure and call for her resignation.

A Cancer Fund spokesman said Dr Scheel refused to discuss any of Hackethal's attacks.

Ufa
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 3 November 1978)

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■ SOCIETY

Parental care draft bill survives growing pains

Not all the legislation promulgated by coalition SPD-FDP legal reformers in the past decade calls for applause.

There have been major achievements, such as in criminal law, large sections of which have been revamped, and in laws governing the penal system.

Even the compromises foisted on the lawmakers by the Opposition (as in the abortion law) might appear tolerable, and the concessions which liberals had to make to the realities of terrorism were largely unavoidable.

But the stocktaking in family affairs legislation is anything but gratifying. The reform of the marriage and divorce laws neither helps to preserve marriages worth saving nor facilitates the dissolu-

tion of those clearly on the rocks. Moreover, the new laws deter young people from marrying because the consequences of failure have become intolerable.

The reduction of the age of majority from 21 to 18 was also far from satisfactory. The young people this law is supposed to favour have to shoulder added responsibility which they are frequently ill-equipped to bear.

Belief in progress and goodwill alone are hardly the equipment with which to make good laws, which might explain why things have calmed down over the latest and still incomplete item of social-liberal family affairs policy — the amendment of parental care legislation.

During the last legislative period the federal government tabled a draft bill on this which earned it the accusation — stunning not from the mother itself as from the underlying reasoning — of wanting to destroy the sacred core of the family for an ideological concept of progress.

In all seriousness, the authors of the draft wrote: "The infant as well as the juvenile thus (that is, through the existing laws) become the subject of alien rule (by the parents)".

This was a reference to the frightful section 1626 of the Civil Code which places all minors under "parental authority."

The terms "rule" or "authority" have become controversial.

Naturally, the authors of the relevant legislation, dating back to the 19th century, did not have the child-battering father and the nagging mother in mind.

The records of their deliberations show they thought of parents caring for their children. And the term "alien rule" had not been coined — fortunately.

Even today we must still consider the parental right to look after and raise their children as part of natural self-determination within a family.

Had the government made it clear from the beginning that the amendment to the parental care legislation only intended to provide a framework without touching on parental rights, and that its prime object was to provide more effective

defences against the abuse of these rights, there would have been much less commotion over the legislation.

The SPD and FDP have meanwhile presented the legal affairs committee of the Bundestag with a number of amendments which should be acceptable to the Opposition.

Essentially, these concern the two controversial and basic questions: the extent to which custody courts can interfere in the child-rearing rights of the parents, and to what extent a child should have a say in parental decisions concerning its welfare.

So far, custody courts have only been able to remove children from parental authority in cases of culpable abuse of this authority (neglect or maltreatment of the child or moral turpitude on the part of the parents).

Culpability is to play no role in the future, the only criterion being the endangering of the mental, emotional or physical well-being of the child.

An emergency brake has been built in for impetuous custody judges: a child can only be separated from its family "if the danger cannot be averted in any other way — not even by public assistance."

The following wording of the original draft bill shows how inadvisable it is to attempt to regulate family relations by law: "If a child is in a position to assess its own affairs, this has to be taken into account by parents in exercising their parental authority."

Such a formulation can decide nothing but can cause endless disputes between parents and children.

Almost every juvenile goes through periods when he is convinced that he is in a better position than his parents to judge his affairs. The extent of this conviction is usually inverse to his judgement.

Here, too common sense has prevailed. The "vocational or educational counsellor" to be consulted over differences of opinion on the suitable training of a young person has been scrapped.

The retreat of the SPD-FDP avant garde of the parental care legislation reform shows they were under the influence of the anti-authoritarian concept of upbringing, which has meanwhile become obsolete.

Perhaps the children of some of them have meanwhile reached and overcome the difficulty stage — as has the draft bill itself.

Hans Schuele

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 1 November 1978)

Youth assistance reform revamps welfare law

The federal government's new youth assistance reform is intended to revamp the 1922 youth welfare law.

In many areas the new law will create no new conditions, but will only provide the legal framework for new practices in youth assistance.

Family Affairs Minister Antje Huber's draft bill has at least managed to take the Cabinet hurdle on which her predecessor Katharina Focke foundered in 1974. Focke's project would have cost considerably more.

Even so, the draft will cause disputes because youth assistance falls under the Länder and municipalities and is paid for by them.

The basic principle of the draft bill is to offer child-rearing assistance to parents and children without foisting it on them.

Counselling offices are to be increased to provide one for every 50,000 people. The agencies are to be staffed by social

workers, psychologists and educationalists and should preferably offer assistance before trouble occurs.

The draft bill gives priority to child-rearing within the family. Only if there is no option is a child to be taken away from the family and foster-parents are to be preferred to institutions.

At present 76,000 children are being brought up in homes and 66,000 by foster parents. The objective is to provide a larger number of foster families with improved counselling and uniform foster parent fees.

A place in an institution costs five times as much as upbringing in a foster family.

Although it will never be possible to scrap institutions altogether, they should be reduced in size and divided into small groups to provide children with something resembling a family.

Hilde Purwin

(Neue Ruhr-Zeitung, 10 November 1978)

Childhood's deadliest ailment

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Some 6,000 children are treated in West German hospitals every year after being battered by their parents. The congress of the Hesse Radiologists Society in Lahn-Giessen has been told by Professor Werner Schuster, head of the radiology department at the university clinic in Lahn-Giessen.

The diagnoses include broken and chipped bones, haemorrhaging and excussions. One child in ten dies from battering. The number of deaths exceeds those from infectious diseases such as measles, whooping cough, diphtheria and scarlet fever.

Radiologists who see this problem every day conclude from the injuries: "The battering is almost always done with the bare hand or first injuries by hard objects are relatively rare."

Data has been collected by radiologists throughout West Germany and evaluated by the forensic medicine institute at Berlin's Free University.

The study not only contains diagnoses but also the social background of victims where it could be established, making it possible to show the relation between child battering and social status.

The old prejudice that it is primarily among the poor that infants are battered is disproved.

Middle and upper-middle class families are slightly ahead on the child battering scale.

Since the number of cases in cities is larger than in rural areas, it is possible to track down the reasons for infant battering.

Professor Schuster says: "It is quite obvious that even infants are victims of the rat race and the nervous strain that goes with it. The stress of everyday life is the harder to bear the less individual scope each member of the family has. A baby can act as a spark that will ignite the powder keg in the confines of a city apartment."

The conclusion that it is usually a sort of short-circuit reaction that leads to baby battering to the point where the infant has to be hospitalised is borne out by the prevailing injuries.

"These injuries," Professor Schuster says, "are typical of blows with the bare hand or fist. The so-called 'centring trauma' so frequently found in battered infants is also typical. It occurs when a baby is thrown by an enraged parent."

"People acting in such a way usually do so when they have lost control of themselves; anybody premeditating battering would use some sort of instrument."

Foreign workers are almost never among the child batterers. Professor Schuster attributes this to the differences in their attitude towards children.

The radiologists appealed to the police to inform the authorities of the slightest suspicions of infant battering. Professor Schuster says: "Infant child battering is most likely to be reported. An enraged parent who has lost so much will probably do so again."

Hannoversche Allgemeine, 9 November 1978

■ SPORT

Moscow Olympics turns the spotlight on politics

The question many people are now asking is similar to that posed before the World Cup in Argentina: should be boycotted the Moscow Olympics in 1980?

This will be the first time in the history of the Olympic Games that they are held in an East bloc country. The games are the world's major sporting spectacle and have now become the object of a political debate.

It is still not certain whether the West will take part in what the East bloc countries describe as "the first Olympic games in a Socialist country."

Britain's Foreign Minister David Owen has even hinted that from the British point of view a boycott would be conceivable if the USSR did not change its attitude on the human rights issue. The list of sporting boycotts, by which one country attempts to punish another, is indeed a long one.

Sporting competition is only possible on the basis of rules accepted by all sides. International sport can only function if there is a general consensus on rules.

Governments and international organisations have recognised the possibilities sport offers and have used it for their purposes. For some, it is a means of continuing the class struggle and proving the superiority of their social system (the East bloc countries); for others it is a chance to awaken national consciousness (the Third World).

The reason why the sport has become more important is that its entertainment value has increased.

Generally over the past decade sport has become more important and more expensive, so that it can only be financed by state aid. As a result, its dependence on the state increased.

The rules of international sport are constantly changing and they are increasingly determined on the grounds of political expediency. Governments intervene in the administration of world sport, and controversial political problems such as those in South Africa, Rhodesia, China, Taiwan, Israel, Korea and West Berlin are dealt with by governments on the level of sport and lead to reprisals.

The rules of international sporting organisations governing participation are either abolished or changed as a result of massive pressure. Nowadays there is hardly a single international championship which is not boycotted by some country for some reason.

West Berlin in particular is an illustration that political dominate sport. For over 20 years the city was avoided as a venue for international sporting events in accordance with the East bloc doctrine that it is a special political unit and not part of the West Germany.

The participation of the East bloc in the world swimming championships in August was only assured after countries received a special invitation from the Mayor of Berlin which took account of the city's special status.

The boycott is the ultimate means of achieving one's ends in sport. The real disputes take place on the level of international sporting organisations.

DIE ZEIT

International sporting competitions are organised by the international sports associations, and they decide quite independently of one another who may join.

This can lead to anomalies. Of the 29 sports associations for Olympic events, 17 have Taiwan as a member and nine have the Peoples' Republic of China. South Africa is still represented on 11 international federations.

Important decisions are taken at general meetings of international sporting organisations which are becoming more like political forums all the time.

The vast majority of sports associations are still dominated by the West. Twenty out of 26 presidents of Olympic federations still come from West Europe. The East bloc, usually in alliance with Third World, is insisting on a change of power.

The most impressive sign of this occurred in the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG). At the general assembly in 1976 a vote replaced the president, Arthur Gander of Switzerland, by Yuri Titov of the Soviet Union. This swing in Moscow's favour was brought about by the votes of the small sports associations, flown to the assembly at Soviet expense.

The national Olympic committees, and the international sports associations formed a permanent general assembly in 1969 and are the second pillar of international sport.

According to rule 25 of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), they must be "completely independent and autonomous and in a position to resist all forms of religious, political and

commercial pressure." Of the 133 national Olympic committees recognised by the IOC very few conform to this ideal picture.

The IOC, as the highest authority in world sport, is the main arena for political disputes. For almost 70 years a committee of kings, princes, barons and industrialists, that is, the wealthy, made sovereign decisions on Olympic matters.

The committee even managed to swim against the political current of the time. The IOC only recognised the division of Germany in 1965, when in Madrid it recognised the GDR as a second German national Olympic committee. And although the Peoples' Republic of China became a member of the UN in 1972 and Taiwan was expelled, the conservative majority within the IOC is still not prepared to follow the UN's example.

This does not mean that the majority of IOC members still comply with the IOC's now unrealistic rule 10, which says: "IOC members must not from the governments of their country or from individuals receive instructions which tie them in any way or affect the independence of their votes."

German IOC member Willi Daume said of this rule in 1975: "In the past IOC members mainly expressed their own opinions. Nowadays the vast majority of them are the mouthpieces of their governments."

The main struggle revolves around membership of the IOC, founded by Pierre de Coubertin in 1894, whose members are elected at annual general meetings. At the moment there are 89 from only 71 countries. Eighteen countries are doubly represented and 62 countries with national Olympic committees are not represented at all.

There are serious imbalances between continents. Europe with its 39 members of the full assembly has almost the same

voting strength as America (19), Africa and Asia (14 each) and Oceania (3). The greatest discrepancy of all is the fact that although it was expelled from the IOC in 1970 South Africa is still represented by IOC member Reginald Honey, elected a life member in 1946. This means Honey can continue to decide on matters affecting the under-represented black Africans.

It is hardly surprising that the East bloc, together with the Third World, is continually making efforts to democratise the IOC. The aim is to create a sporting equivalent of the United Nations in which the progressive majority can change the rules of sport at will and according to political expediency.

The clearer it has become to the East bloc, African and Asian countries that they are not going to get their way in the Western-dominated IOC and the international sports associations in the foreseeable future, the more they try to achieve their aims through Unesco. The 19th Unesco general assembly accepted a proposal by the developing countries and set up "a provisional international committee for physical education and sport."

The German Sports Association (DSB) has found out to its cost the strength of the tendencies towards the nationalisation of sport. Sporting relations with the East bloc are dealt with over a yearly calendar which the DSB works out with the individual states. It is no longer the clubs and sports associations that arrange fixtures, but the DSB and a government ministry (in the case of the USSR). DSB chairman Willi Weyer says they have to put up with these things because the annual calendar includes fixtures in West Berlin.

Until 1980 the Russians will no doubt hold back with their demands for a "new world sports order" to avoid endangering the Moscow Olympics. After that we can expect a general offensive.

It is to be feared that the virus of nationalisation will spread and lead to a general paralysis of international sport. Soon those who want to play or not play sport with other countries because of issues such as the class struggle, human rights, mutual diplomatic recognition and racial discrimination will no longer meet with opposition.

Günter Deister

(Die Zeit, 10 November 1978)

Can Daume be next IOC head?

Who best understands the problems of sport on a committee short on outstanding personalities.

The fact that Daume is organising an Olympic congress in Baden-Baden in 1981 could be in his favour. The purpose of this congress is to decide the direction of international sport into the 1980s.

Daume has not been a member of the IOC executive, the centre of decisions and information within the IOC, since 1976, which is a disadvantage. It is known that Lord Killanin has his reservations about Daume. On the other hand, Daume has his reservations about the president of the IOC. And apart from this it is certainly no advantage for the Dortmund-born, Munich based industrialist that he is German.

It is difficult to assess Daume's chances of being the first German elected to the highest office in sport in Moscow in 1980. The former Olympic athlete (1936) and president of the German Sports Association (from 1950 to 1970) organised the 1972 Munich Olympics brilliantly. He is considered as the man

In the past years Daume has attempted to overcome all these handicaps with cautious flying diplomacy. He is a regular visitor to Moscow, where his advice is highly appreciated.

Lord Killanin would obviously like Canadian IOC member James Worrall to be his successor. The 64-year-old lawyer from Toronto is considered a pragmatist who can get his way.

Worrall, who like Daume took part in the 1936 Olympics, is not showing his hand. Asked if he intended to stand in Moscow, he answered: "Do you believe in evil spirits?" The most ambitious claimant to the IOC throne is generally reckoned to be the Spanish grandee Juan Antonio Samaranch. The 56-year-old IOC head of protocol is now Spanish ambassador in Moscow.

Willi Daume has only recently met two of the conditions for becoming IOC president. He now speaks French as well as English. At the last IOC full assembly in Athens last May, French IOC representative Monique Berlioux was impressed by his command of the French language.

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 11 November 1978)